

Mini-Research Essay Assignments:

During the first semester of your Olympian High Senior Year English course, you will be reading *Enrique's Journey*, written by Sonia Nazario. Each chapter of this book contains a number of terms and references that may well be unfamiliar to readers. While Nazario sometimes gives brief explanations for these terms and references, readers can gain much insight and understanding if they engage in some additional research.

In this class, over the course of the first semester, you will be assigned 4 short papers of 1 ½ to 2 pages maximum length. Your project in these short papers is to present the information you gathered by researching a particular reference of your choice, and to discuss **how** the information from the sources you researched clarifies and extends a reader's understanding of a particular issue or passage in *Enrique's Journey*.

PROMPT: Write a short paper (1 ½ to 2 pages maximum length) in which you answer the following questions:

- What is the reference that will be researched?
- Why is it necessary or important to research this reference?
- What information has the research revealed?
- How is a reader's understanding of this particular chapter of *Enrique's Journey* enhanced in some way by the research presented in this paper?

Criteria for Evaluation:

Successful papers will

- Give readers some context by introducing *Enrique's Journey* and this paper's project
- Briefly and accurately summarize/state the main idea of the chapter that contains the term/reference to be discussed
- Present information relevant to the term/reference gathered from at least two credible sources
- Explain how a reader's understanding of the specific chapter of *Enrique's Journey* is changed or enhanced in some way by obtaining this additional researched information on the term/reference
- Be structured so that the information flows logically from one point to the next
- Adhere to the maximum length requirement and the format and conventions of formal academic prose
- Be carefully edited so that the paper is free of grammatical and typographical errors

All mini-research papers must be printed in black ink on unlined white 8 ½ x 11 paper in 12 point Times New Roman font or shared in google docs with Ms. Cadwell.

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